

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

27 AUGUST 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. USSR-Space

We now have every reason to believe that the Venus probe launched from Tyuratam on Friday has failed to eject from its earth orbit. It looks, however, as though the Soviets are getting ready to give it another try sometime in the next few days.

[REDACTED]

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2. Laos

The withdrawal of North Vietnamese personnel is scheduled to begin today. As far as we can tell, the only people involved are those five instructors in Nhommarath plus 40 technicians who are to be flown to Hanoi from the Plaine des Jarres checkpoint in two Soviet aircraft.

[REDACTED]

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3. Germany

a. West Berlin passed a quiet weekend during which US military vehicles moved in and out of East Berlin without incident, and the Russians made no more fuss about Allied escorts for their guards going to and from the Soviet war memorial. Operations at the Berlin Air Safety Center were normal.

b. Things may pick up soon, at least on the political side. Ulbricht's airplane has gone to Moscow, apparently to pick him up after a month of visiting and consulting. A central committee plenum meeting is planned upon Ulbricht's return, and new moves may be announced then. We suspect that the formal incorporation of East Berlin into East Germany may be the next maneuver. [REDACTED]

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4. Cambodia

a. Sihanouk's proposal for an international conference to guarantee Cambodian neutrality is getting a reception ranging from indifference to distaste. India, Canada, Thailand, and South Vietnam have expressed sentiments in this spectrum, but we have not yet heard how the Communist side is responding.

b. Meanwhile, Sihanouk has returned to his charges that the Thai and South Vietnamese are committing aggressions against his country and are putting US arms to use in the process. Our embassy in Phnom Penh was handed a note on this theme on Saturday.

NOTES

- A. Algeria With the fragmentation of Algeria a growing possibility, Ben Bella is reportedly returning to Algiers today to try to talk the local military leaders into giving him their backing.
- B. South Vietnam Our embassy in Saigon has seen enough evidence to be convinced that the "clear-and-hold" and strategic hamlet programs against the Viet Cong in the highland areas northwest of Saigon are beginning to have some effect on Viet Cong operational effectiveness.
- C. Panama Panama student and labor unrest, coupled with the action yesterday of a small group of National Guardsmen who took to the hills with their arms, is giving the Chiari government a bad case of jitters.

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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I.

II.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

For The President Only—Top Secret